Reduction in power thefts

376. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a reduction in power theft in 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such reduction; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to reduce power theft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATIJAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As per Central Elctricity Authority; the figures for reduction in power theft in 2002-03 are not available.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The Elctricity Act, 2003 provides a legal framework for making theft of electricity a cognizable offence. Under Section 135 of the electricity Act, 2003, whoever dishonestly taps lines or cables or service wires, tampers damages or destroys meters etc., shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both. A scheme is being implemented to grant incentives for State Governments/Power Utilities which show reduction in cash losses, a significant portion of which is because of theft of power.

Power production in Bihar

† 377. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the power production in Bihar as on date;

(b) the demand of power in rural and urban areas; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During the period April-June 03' the electricity generation in Bihar was 1380 Million Units.

(b) Supply and distribution of electricity within a State is in the purview of concerned State Government/State Power Utility.The priority of power

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

supply to various categories of consumers in rural area/urban area in the State is decided by the State Government, keeping in view the total availability of power from various sources in the State. During the period April-June 03', the power supply in Bihar is as under:

Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)	
Requirement	1813	Peak demand	920
Availability	1362	Peak met	693
Deficit	451	Deficit	227
%	24.9	%	24.7

(c) Eastern Region, of which Bihar is a constituent, has surplus power and power is being exported from Eastern Region to other Regions. The shortages in energy as well as peak power witnessed in the State are primarily attributable to poor plant load factor (RL.F.) of its power plants, its limited paying capability and inadequacies in sub-transmission & distribution system.

However, in order to augment availability of power in the State of Bihar, the following steps are being taken:-

(i) Besides capacity addition of 135 MW in State Sector in Bihar, a capacity addition of 5650 MW has been planned in Central Sector in Eastern Region in which the State of Bihar will have entitlements.

(ii) Implementation of Renovation, Modernisation and Life Extension (R&M & LE) Schemes for old and inefficient generating units for overall improvement in generation performance.

(iii) Government of India approved the Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP) which is intended for Upgradation of Sub-Transmission and Distribution in densely electrified zones in the urban and industrial areas and improvement in commercial viability of State Electricity Boards by reducing the aggregate technical and commercial (AT & C) losses to around 15% as against the existing over 50%. During the year 2002-03 the Government has sanctioned the sub-

transmission and distribution (ST&D), metering and DMS/SCADA projects amounting to Rs. 737.97 crores for Upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution in the State of Bihar. Further, Government of Bihar and Bihar State Electricity Board have signed the Memorandum of Understanding and Memorandum of Agreement with the Government of India to implement the power reforms in a phased manner.

(iv) A scheme amounting to Rs. 365 crores for improvement of sub-transmission and distribution system in Bihar with a special grant to be made available by the Planning Commission under special economic package for Bihar, (after its bifurcation), has been agreed to.

Private participation in power sector

378. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the aggressive reforms and encouragement by the Governments, the growth of private sector in power sector is very slow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the State-wise details of the capacity addition by private sector since 1991.

(d) whether it is also a fact that private sector could not realize its target in Ninth Plan and in the first year of Tenth Plan;

(e) the reasons for the slippage of the target; and

(f) the steps being taken by Union and State Governments to clear the road blocks for greater private participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for slow growth of private sector in power sector are indicated below:-

(i) Failure to achieve financial closure inspite of good progress on other fronts due to insistence by the financial institutions on State